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ABSTRACT

A great deal of time could be saved in all grades and for all content areas if a truly phonic alphabet were developed. This alphabet would have only one symbol for each sound and only one sound for each symbol so that beginning readers could learn to pronounce any word they could see and spell any word they could pronounce correctly. Such an alphabet could be created by using double vowels for all long vowels and by eliminating all silent letters, obscure vowels, and duplicate consonants. For example, "c" would be used only in "ch," its soft sound would always be spelled with "s," and its hard sound would be "k." The sound of "a" in "father" is so close to short "o," that the "o" symbol would do for both. A problem is posed by the sound spelled "oo" in book and "u" in "bush"; however, since "y" and "w" would be eliminated because their sounds are taken by other letters, perhaps one of them could be used. Another suggestion would be to use boldface type for long vowels. Typists would then have to follow long vowels by a hyphen or other symbol while long hand writers would simply put a mark like the cross of a "t" over long vowels. To initiate this program, periodicals and newspapers could publish one article printed both ways in each issue for a year. Through this system, English would suddenly become one of the easiest languages to learn and there would be no more students who cannot read. (FL)

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A Phonic Alphabet

by

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A phonic alphabet without changing printing presses or typewriters.

A truly phonic alphabet--only one symbol for each sound, and only one sound for each symbol! First graders could learn to pronounce any word they could see, and write (spell) any word they could pronounce correctly. What worlds of time would be saved in all grades, for content subjects.

This could be accomplished by using double vowels for all long vowels, eliminating all silent letters, and even obscure vowels, and all duplicate consonants. For example, "c" would be used only in "ch." Its soft sound would always be spelled with "s" and its hard sound, "k." The sound of "a" in father is so close to short "o", that the "o" symbol would do for both.

The only sound that is a real problem, is the sound spelled "oo" in "book" and "u" in "bush." Since "y" and "w" would be eliminated, because their sounds are taken by other letters, perhaps one of them could be used. Confusing to us oldies, but not impossible.

CS205776

Please read the alphabet.

Vowels

ā 1. aa -- kaak (cake) paapr (paper)

ă 2. a -- kat (cat) haz (has) apl (apple)

ē 3. ee -- meet (meat, meet) peepl (people)

ĕ 4. e -- met (met) sed (said) hed (head)

ī 5. ii -- biisikl (bicycle) skii (sky)

ĭ 6. i -- priti (pretty) siti (city)

ō 7. oo -- root (wrote) loon (lone)

ŏ 8. o -- fol (fall) of (off) [uv (of) u (a)] log

ū=o͞o 9. uu -- truuth (truth) muun (moon)
Note: long "u" is always as in "truth," never as in mule.

ŭ 10. u -- u kup uv sumthing (a cup of some)

11. ou -- hou (how) mountn (mountain)

12. iu -- (pronounced "you." Sound short "i" and long "u". Try it until it comes out "you".) u miul is iuzfwl*
(a mule is useful).

13. ie -- ies (yes) iook (yoke) (Try blending short "i" with "es" and "oo". (long "o".)

Consonants

14. b -- as usual booi (boy) robr (robber)

15. ch -- as usual chrch (church) "ch" will never sound as k.
Krismus

16. d -- as usual duz (does) "d" is never pronounced "t".
stopt, not stopped

* "useful" will be discussed under "w"

17. f -- as usual. flufi (fluffy). "f" is never spelled "ph".

18. g -- grl (girl) The soft sound of "g" will always be spelled "j".

19. ng -- as usual. rang ring rong (wrong)

20. h -- as usual. hapi (happy) See also ph--sh--th--~~th~~ and wh.

21. j -- Juun (June) Joozuf jinjr (ginger) jiiraf (giraffe) or jraf

22. k -- as usual. Also koorus (chorus)

23. l -- as usual. sili (silly) liik (like)

24. m -- as usual. mu~~th~~r

25. n -- as usual. noo (no), hee (he) nooz (knows) nuthing
ang - ing - ong

26. p -- as usual. popu piks peez (papa picks peas)

* ph -- is eliminated. Filip foond tuu Feenix (Phillip phoned to Phoenix)

* q -- is eliminated. It duplicates "k" and long "u". kuuik (quick) kuueen (queen) skuurl (squirrel)

27. r -- as usual. er (err) err (error) Pronounce the "r" twice in "err".

28. s -- as usual. sukses (success). "s" is never pronounced "z".

29. sh -- shiin (shine)

30. t -- always as in time. "tion" is "shun" initial is "inishl". (except th.)

31. th -- thu breth sound, think (the breath)

32. ~~th~~ -- ~~th~~u vooist (voiced) sound ~~th~~is ~~th~~at
vooeest

* w -- is eliminated. Its only sound is long "u". uuindoo (window). But it may be used instead of short double "o" as in good, look and "u" in bush. u bwshl uv gwd bwks (a bushel of good books)

* x -- "x" is eliminated. Its sounds are spelled "ks" and "egz". ekspres egzaktli siks boksuz (express exactly six boxes.

* y -- is eliminated. Its so-called consonant sound is really short "i" followed by a vowel. (see under number 12) Its other sounds are long "i" and short "i".

34. z -- as usual. buz, bizi, goz.

35. zh -- as usual. grozh (garage)

Look crazy? Yes, but it makes sense. And our present English would look crazier if we got used to this. Consider just a few -- break, freak, sew, few, shoe, foe, goose, choose, warm, worm, beard, heard, cord, word, done, bone, known, gone, comb, tomb, bomb, mould, could, and so on, & on. And you can spell "fish" "ghoti" and defend it phonetically with the dictionary. "gh" = "f" as in "enough", "o" = "i" as in women, "ti" = "sh" as in initial, so "ghoti" should be "fish". (This "fish" is not original. George Bernard Shaw thought of it.)

Another idea would be to use bold face type for long vowels. Typewriters would have to follow long vowels by a hyphen or other symbol. Long hand would simply put a mark like the cross of a "t" over long vowels.

a u tu wek vacashun
a a two week vacation
a thu kat cot thu rat
a the cat caught the rat
e pepl et met
people eat meat

e I sed I had met thu ded man
I said I had met the dead man
i I lik mi fin bisikl
I like my fine bicycle
i I liv in u priti sici
I live in a pretty city
o Jo rot uv a boka in u bot
Joe wrote of a boquet in a boat
o Iu uil fol of uv u log
You will fall off of a log
u In truth thu mun is beutifwl
In truth the moon is beautiful
u U kup uv sumthing gwd
A cup of something good

U sentuns in bold fast tip
A sentence in bold faced type

To initiate the program

Periodicals and newspapers could publish one article printed both ways in each issue for a year. First printings might be alternate lines; later side-by-side columns. At the end of the year the public could decide.

School books should begin with the lower grades and work up. Old books could still be used, but, all new books would be printed in the New English.

English would suddenly become the easiest, instead of one of the hardest languages to learn, and there would be no more "Johnnys" who can't read.

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